

**Acton Commission on Disability
Annual Report
2007**

During 2007 the Commission on Disability engaged in the following activities in pursuit of its mission:

Advocating for the rights and interests of citizens with disabilities and their families:

- Collaborate with the Transportation Advisory Committee regarding the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities. Former Commission chairperson, Lisa Franklin participated as a panelist on the Community Forum on Transportation held in June at Town Hall
- Field concerns of Acton citizens with disabilities who had difficulty accessing polling places, and communicating with appropriate town officials to share and address those concerns
- Provide advocacy resources for families facing challenges in accessing appropriate supports in educational settings for their children with disabilities
- Preparation of an article for the Beacon highlighting the work of the commission and announcing the Commission's recognition of two Acton organizations, Acton Medial Associates and the South Acton Congregational Church for their efforts in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities.
- Collaboration with organizations and agencies, Acton Department of Health, Acton Lions Club, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind in identifying the needs of local residents with disabilities.

Ensuring that Acton meets the laws, regulations, and guidelines set down by federal, state and regional bodies pertaining to the rights of citizens with disabilities:

- Support one Commission member in attending the Community Access Monitoring training offered by the Massachusetts Office on Disability. This training prepares individuals to formally evaluate accessibility within the local community.
- Review of variance requests and provision of feedback to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board

Acting as a resource for education around the needs of people with disabilities and their families.

- Re-print the "Acton Accessible Dining Guide" to include all current Acton restaurants. The Dining guide was made available at the library and town hall, and was distributed to local organizations working with individuals with disabilities, e.g. hospitals, clinics, senior living centers, etc.
- Printing of 125 copies of the "Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide" to assist individuals with disabilities in preparing for emergency situations
- Development of an in-service program, highlighting the needs of individuals with disabilities in health care settings, that was presented in March for the medical staff at Acton Medical Associates
- Ensure that the public library have available reading materials focusing on disability issues, e.g. "New Mobility" magazine, "The Special Needs Planning Guide: How to Prepare for Every Stage of Your Child's Life"

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